

Two Streets 110 Feet Wide Are Being Built As Traffic Arteries for New Bronx Housing

By LEE E. COOPER

The extensive street system which is being developed in Parkchester, apartment community for 12,200 families under construction by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company on the old Catholic Protective property in the Bronx, probably is one of the major reasons why the project has been cited by the Regional Plan Association as an "outstanding example" of neighborhood planning.

Two landscaped highways 110 feet wide now are taking form in the "city within a city" as the main traffic arteries for the \$50,000,000 community. Each will have landscaped "islands" down the center to divide traffic.

The two main thoroughfares cut diagonally across the 129-acre site and cross near the center of the property to form a central park, which will be oval-shaped.

One of these, extending up through the development in a northeasterly direction to connect Storrow Street with Lyvere Avenue, will be known as Metropolitan Avenue. The other, which meets Metropolitan Avenue almost at right angles, has been made possible by widening Unionport Road.

Trees and shrubbery already are being set out along these main streets, which serve to divide the Metropolitan's property into four quadrants.

The service streets and parks and playground spaces have been laid out so that there will be no vehicular movement through any one of these quadrants. The service streets and parking spaces are of the "dead end" type in shape resembling somewhat a pear with an elongated stem, and with the wider parking space and circular drives for turns located behind the building units.

The extent of the street and sidewalk facilities may be realized from a tabulation showing that they will take up 27.4 acres, or more than 21 per cent of the Parkchester land.

In addition, the landscaped and recreational spaces will cover 66.6 acres, or more than 51 per cent of the ground area in the new apartment center. As a further aid to traffic, the project will provide five garages with a combined capacity of more than 2,500 automobiles. To reduce the flow of traffic still further, each quadrant will contain its own shopping center.

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